In Loving Memory
Celebrating the Life and Legacy
Of
Linda Marie Sewell-Byias

Sunrise
February 3, 1948

Sunset
December 19, 2011

Life Reflections:

Linda Marie Sewell Byias... giving, caring ….her smile could light up the sky….

Linda Marie is the third child of Lowell and Ella Giddings Sewell. Nicknamed Ludy, at the age of 4 by God-sister Nel (Dimples), Linda attended Cortez/Coronado and Peres Elementary and Roosevelt Junior High. After graduating from Richmond High, she attended Merritt College. Linda possessed a "folksie" wisdom that could enlighten and spark others.

In 1961, she united with Easter Hill United Methodist Church. Throughout her life, Linda balanced hard work, social/family life and a continuing search for spiritual growth. She was working on co-founding a non-profit Inspirational Project while attending church in Las Vegas.

In 1972, Linda married Frank Byias, II; they moved to Las Vegas. From that union was born a son, Frank Byias, III. She was a doting, carrying wife, mother (and grandmother).

Every year friends and family members looked forward to her traditional Super Bowl/Birthday Party. They traveled from far and near to join in that fun-filled weekend.

A born athlete and a FIERCE competitor ~one couldn't help but marvel at her moves on the dance floor, in the kitchen, decorating her home (her mother's daughter), on the basketball/volley courts, track, on her job, bowling, ping pong…. it would take SOME doing to rival her masterful artistry…she could also draw. Oops! …almost forgot-- breaking down the engine of a car and putting every piece back, (*something she learned from her husband, the auto parts business where he was manager and her Dad*). She would say, *"It relaxes me!"*

Linda worked in various professions which included Richmond Parks and Recreation, Richmond Sanitation Dept., U.C. Berkeley Library, the State of Nevada, Las Vegas Parks Department, and a retiree of the Teamsters Convention Professionals….

Linda was the recipient of numerous awards and honors primarily in the field of sports and leadership which included: Most Valuable Player (MVP) North American Western Region Olympics Trials in Oregon, 1968; All Tournament and Most Valuable Player Western Region Volleyball Finals …All Tournament, Most Valuable Player (MVP) Women's Slow Pitch Softball Western Region (ASA).

It was recently noted that she still holds several records at her Junior High and Richmond High. She was selected to Train for the Olympics--some thought she might become another Wilma Rudolph.

As a single mother, Linda enjoyed sharing her skills with her son Frank, Jr. whose basketball team she coached during his formative years. In High school he made All City (college—all conference). She tried to inspire the importance of playing with "heart" to young kids who fell under her skilled observations.

As a tribute to her--The Linda Marie Sewell Byias Fund which will commemorate and assist girls and Unsung Women in Leadership and Sports…is being set up by her family.

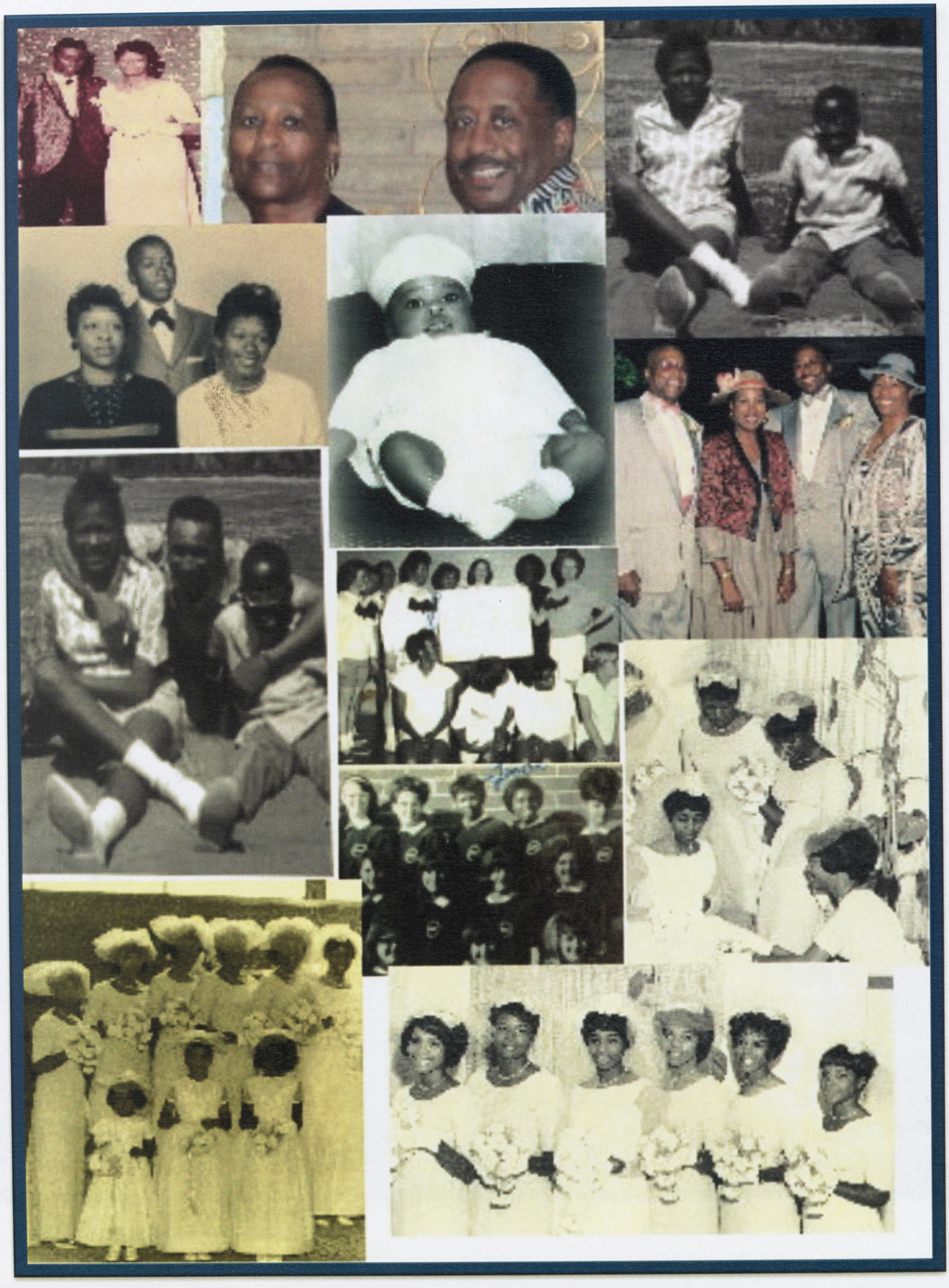
Another joy…When her grandson Deven was born, he was the light of her life. She would often share how he'd rush in looking for her calling, "Grannie, grannie…" He turned 3 in September, 2011.

On December 19, 2011, Linda said until tomorrow, to her Son Frank Byias, III, (Jamie), grandson Deven Byias, (Mother) Commissioner, Ella Sewell, (Sister) Gloria Sewell Murphy, (Brothers) David and Michael Sewell, Sister-in-law, Gladys Sewell, (Niece) Melani Donald, Nephew-in-law, Albert Donald, II, (nephew) Leander Aaron Murphy, niece, Ashley P. Sewell, great nephew, Alexander Donald, great niece, Melia Donald, God-sisters Nel Walker Gaines, Dolores Charles Sanders, (Carl), God-mother Mrs. Augustine Williams, God-brother Kevin, Mama Liz and family, Joshalyn Cain, Melvin and Betty Carter, the Parkers and a host of other family and friends. She'll embrace her father (and all who have gone before) and her God-uncle William (Bill) Owens.

Order of Service

Prelude	Music
Processional	Minister & Family
Prayer	Rev. Dorothy Williams
Musical Selection *~Lord's Prayer*	Kelly Gilbert
Scripture *~23rd Psalms*	Myrtle Braxton-Ellington
Musical Selection *~The Making of You*	
Poem *~God's Garden*	Alexander Donald
Acknowledgements	Melani Donald
Poem *~Her Journey's Just Begun*	Melia Donald
Musical Selection *~Somewhere Over the Rainbow*	
Obituary	Ashley Sewell
Family Remembrance	Gloria ~ Gladys ~ Mike
Musical Selection	Alfie
Friends/Community Expression	Nathaniel Bates, Councilmember Nel Walker Gainer
Musical Selection *I Can't Complain*	Kelly Gilbert Paul Daniels, Pianists
Eulogy	Rev Billye Austin
Musical Selection *~Somewhere Over the Rainbow*	

Recessional



Love notes…

My dearest Daughter,
I know you insisted you wanted to cook the whole Xmas dinner; it was prepared with love and blessings for you…I will always hold you close to my heart, my baby girl, and try to do best by my grandson and great grand-son as my love and tribute to your memory…With undying Love, **Mom (*Mama*)**

Dear Mama,
I know you're always near …I cherish all that you meant to me and all that you taught me; and I'll always remember the precious times we shared and your love for your grandson (my son).
Deven, Your Son, *My love for you is never ending!*

Dear Grannie,
I miss you and I'll always love you too!! **Your Grandson**

My dearest Little-big sister, Ludy,
I want to thank you for your pursuit of doing EVERYTHING with HEART…often, against all odds. I tell everyone how awesome you are. I'll always remember and treasure our talks about the complexities of life and living. You remain in my reality. **With Enduring Love, "Sister" *(as you still called me)***

Dear Little Sister,
I think back to the days when you were about 7 or 8….You'd watch me and friends play basketball. Then, you'd try and try. Until one day, I could see some of myself in your game. I know you're up there teaching someone how to do something.
I love you still, Your *(big)* brother, David

To My Sis Linda,
There are many mysteries in life; many things I don't understand. God doesn't **always** tell us what he has planned for us. All I know is that I miss you ever so much. I miss your smile, the way you do things, your honesty and your directness when it comes to life. I know one day I will see that smile again; and a chance to finish that game.
Love Always Your (Little) Brother, Mike (Pat)

Dear Aunt Ludy,
I will miss your infectious happy spirit. As a young girl, Aaron and I loved spending some of our summer with you and Uncle Frank in Las Vegas. You helped me appreciate the world of sports. I'm glad your athleticism was passed to our daughter, Melia. You will forever be in my heart. **Your niece, Melani**

Dear Aunt Ludy,
Thank you for letting us eat all the fun 'junk" foods our mom wouldn't buy us when we were kids. I'll always remember the project you and I worked on in 2009. **Special Love, Your nephew, Aaron**

Dear Aunt Linda,
For as long as I can remember, you have always brought so much love to this family. Your laugh, your voice, your bright personality, and your warm smile will truly be missed. I know that heaven has one more angel and I will see you again one day.
Love always, Your niece Ashley

Dear Aunt Ludy,
Words cannot express how much my family and I miss you. Your personality always brightened up the room no matter where you were and it made everyone feel comfortable. You will always be in my heart and in my thoughts. I hope to see you again in heaven one day. **Your great nephew, Alex**

Dear Aunt Ludy,
I was so ready for you to see me play basketball with the things you've taught me! After I heard the news I couldn't stop crying. But, my mom says you're still watching me. She's right! Every game I play, I dedicate it to you. You're my motivation. You're the reason I'm going to keep playing in memory of you. I love you with all my heart.
Your great niece, Melia

Her Journey's Just Begun
(An Excerpt)

Don't think of her as gone away—
Her journey's just begun
Life holds so many facets-
This earth is only one…

And think of her as living
In the hearts of those she touched….
For nothing loved is ever lost-
And she was loved so much…

E. Brenneman

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